



State of Illinois
Bruce Rauner, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation
Randall S. Blankenhorn, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
June 1, 2015

CONTACT:
Carson Quinn 312.814.4693
Guy Tridgell 312.793.4199

Reconstruction of Interstate 55, U.S. 41 Interchange Begins

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) announced today that the reconstruction of the northbound U.S. 41 (Lake Shore Drive) ramp to outbound Interstate 55 (Stevenson Expressway) is scheduled to begin, weather permitting, on Monday, June 8.

Some temporary, overnight closures of the ramp will be scheduled in the coming days to accommodate setting up the work zone that will be in place until the project's complete next summer. Throughout construction, the ramp will be kept at its current single-lane configuration, but reduced to a width of 11 feet, with some occasional overnight closures required.

The reconstruction of the southbound Lake Shore Drive ramp to outbound I-55 will begin later this summer and last until winter 2016.

Motorists can expect delays and should allow extra time for trips through this area. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to flaggers and signs in the work zones, obey the posted speed limits and be on the alert for workers and equipment.

The reconstruction of the outbound ramps represents the start of a larger \$133 million project to rebuild all the ramps and bridges linking I-55 and Lake Shore Drive, just east of Interstate 90/94 (Dan Ryan Expressway). The work consists of the reconstruction and reconfiguration of the six bridges that form the interchange:

- Inbound and outbound I-55 over McCormick Place and Martin Luther King Drive.
- Inbound I-55 to northbound and southbound Lake Shore Drive.
- Northbound and southbound Lake Shore Drive to outbound I-55.

The interchange was last replaced more than 50 years ago. Approximately 123,000 vehicles pass through it each day. The improvements, when they are finished in late 2017, will address structural deficiencies of the existing structures, as well as enhance safety and capacity throughout the area.

Throughout the duration of the project, the construction schedule will continue to be coordinated with the City of Chicago, the Chicago Park District, Soldier Field, McCormick Place and other facilities and organizations nearby.

Find details on other construction projects in IDOT's District 1 at <http://goo.gl/upgvZu>. Updates on the impacts to traffic are available at www.travelmidwest.com.

#